

**Special Interest Articles:****Buffalo MEPS
Commander's Corner****1SGs Thoughts on:****Volunteerism****A Word from our
Singles****UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ❑ 8 Oct – Training Day
- ❑ 29 Oct – FRG Bakesale
(We're also selling
Support our Troops
Magnets)

Congratulations to:

*Deb Utecht as she unites
in marriage with PO Ken
Stancliff, prior MEPS
NCO*

New Arrivals:

Mike Messina
SGT Renna & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Cline
Mr. Tim Dowell & Family

Departures:

SSG Baraby & Family
Debra Utecht

WELLNESS NEWS

www.mepcom.army.mil/wrprog

Tricare:

- ❑ Making Choices for your
college student
- ❑ Pharmacy Program

Spouses to Teachers

- ❑ There is a new program
in six states to help
spouses find
employment.

New RLDP Training

- ❑ Leadership, Volunteer
Management,
Community Support

Commander's Corner

With the changing of the seasons, so too does the Buffalo MEPS team. I know you will join me in saying Fair Winds and Following Seas to Ms. Utecht and the Baraby Family. At the same time I know you will help me welcome aboard, Mr. Messina, SGT Renna, Mr. Cline and Mr. Dowell. As the weather turns colder we need to turn our attention to doing what we can to help others less fortunate than ourselves. There are many opportunities to give back to the community. Community can take many forms. There is our MEPS family, Federal Community and Greater Buffalo Area. Your time, talents and contributions are a much-needed commodity. Whether you volunteer in the MEPS Readiness Group, at an Adult Literacy Program or make a payroll deduction to the CFC campaign your efforts are key to the long-term health of our various communities. The great unknown can turn fortune into failure, what endures throughout time is peoples capacity to help one another. I urge you to do your part this season of giving.

Volunteerism

As many of you know, Katy Harris has stepped down from being our MEPS Key Volunteer. I want to take this opportunity to say thanks Katy for all you did to officially kick off our Family Readiness Program, and for what you will continue to do as one of our volunteers. As Katy steps down from the lead role, we are looking for a Key Volunteer for our Family Wellness and Readiness Group. Ideally we would like a family member to fill this role. The Commander assumes the responsibility to appoint a military or civilian member in the MEPS to perform the duties as the "FRG Liaison" as part of their additional duties, but will only do this as a last resort.

Susan Ellis wrote a book called The Volunteer Recruitment Book and she states that the first step in the recruiting process is to know why your organization wants volunteers. Well, the Buffalo MEPS wants a volunteer versus an appointed employee for the reason of wanting to stay in direct contact with the needs of our families. I just don't think we can do that from the Federal Building. Our FRG already has 5 volunteers to help out with the coordination of events and fund-raisers. All we really need is a voice or two from our family members. If you are interested in becoming our Key Volunteer, please contact me at 551-4077. Thanks 1SG Durden

A Word From Our Singles

Being in the military is extremely difficult, with deployments, wars, and separations from loved ones an issue that is dealt with on a daily basis. A married member of the military does have his/her spouse to assist with the nuances of being deployed (i.e., paying the bills, upkeep of the house and yard, etc.). For the single members of the military, that responsibility is the military members responsibility, and hopefully, through base/post resources, the single military member is able to complete his/her mission on a deployment knowing that his personal affairs are being taken care of. And as such, the civilian work force that works for and with the military is vitally important to the mission. Without the civilian work force, the military members would have to stay back and would be unable to deploy, thereby prolonging the fight.

Here at the Buffalo MEPS, we are not in a deployable unit, however, many of us are away from our immediate families and we have to rely on friends, co-workers, and the Family Readiness Group to assist us in times of need. Of the 31 individuals assigned to the Buffalo MEPS, 13 of us are single. Has this hindered the mission? Certainly not...the single members of the Buffalo MEPS are Outstanding contributors to the mission and to the community. For example, GSE1 Kane volunteers his valuable time in Buffalo Community Involvement, helping to plant trees and cleaning up local areas and parks, making Buffalo a better place to live. SGT Hujet is involved with several local sports teams and is the Loaned Executive for the Combined Federal Campaign. Mr. Saddler is deployed to Southwest Asia, leading the fight on the Global War on Terrorism. Ms. Utecht volunteered her time this past August to spend a "Day of Caring", ensuring a fresh coat of paint was applied at the Monsignor Carr Institute. This is just a small sampling of the good things the single members of the Buffalo MEPS contribute not only to their country, but to the place they temporarily call home...Buffalo, New York.